

**City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Workshop
August 1, 2016**

A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on August 1, 2016 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Charles W. Baugher; Council Member Robert Dean Helsel; Council Member Eric Marquis; Council Member Amy Minner; Council Member Micah Parker; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; Noel Primos, Filling In for the City Solicitor, Teresa Tieman, City Manager; Dean Gary, Accountant; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: Tom Wilkes, City Engineer, Remington, Vernick, and Beach; and Jennifer Antonik, the (Harrington) Journal.

Mayor Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Builder and Developer Committee recommendation for driveways

Council Member Minner stated that the recommendation is about vehicles not being parked on grass. The change to the Code would require residential rental units to have asphalt, concrete, or pavers within one year for the parking area.

Mayor Moyer stated that one year is not long enough for existing rental units; it is a cost burden. Mayor Moyer suggested that single family rental properties be given three years from being notified of the requirement. Council Member Bivans agreed that one year is too quick and requested two years.

Mayor Moyer stated that if the purpose of the Code change is to clean up the City then it should apply to owner occupied homes as well. Council Member Minner stated that new homes and homes with major renovations would need to comply with the driveway standards. Council Member Marquis stated that home owners tend to take better care of their properties, while landlords do not always. Mayor Moyer stated that there are maintenance codes to cover owners that do not take care of property.

Council Member Baugher stated that there are a lot of seniors on a fixed income, and this could be a hardship on them.

Mayor Moyer stated that the City may want to offer interest free loans for improvements.

Vice Mayor Bivans asked why gravel is not allowed for driveways. Council Member Minner stated that it is not dust free.

Council Member Minner stated that another consideration is the amount of impervious surface coverage. The City Engineer stated that there are different percentages of coverage allowed for commercial and residential areas; the source water recharge area is a State law.

Mayor Moyer suggested using asphalt near the apron and gravel with a border to contain it.

Council Member Parker asked why the Code on driveways was not being enforced. The City Manager stated that most of the driveways are grandfathered, and it takes the Code Enforcement Officer time and effort to correct problems.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that paving driveways does enhance homes but that maintenance enforcement would make more improvements.

Mayor Moyer stated that if the City is mandating driveway paving then it should offer low to no interest loans.

Council Member Minner stated that she will take the issue back to the Builder and Developer Committee.

Council Member pay

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that for pay for the council members, one evening should be one meeting. Vice Mayor Bivans suggested that the Council be paid every two months rather than quarterly.

Mayor Moyer suggested a stipend of one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200) per year that is paid monthly.

Vice Mayor Bivans asked what other municipalities pay. Council Member Minner stated that some are paid per meeting and others have a stipend, but none are paid for multiple meetings in a day like Harrington's Council.

Council Member Minner suggested reducing the budget for City Council pay.

Council Member special funds

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that the City Solicitor advised against the council members having special funds. The special funds would be to assist the community with special projects, and parameters for disbursements would need to be established.

Mayor Moyer stated that the City would receive never ending requests for money. Groups like the Historical Society have been helped by the City.

Council Member Marquis stated that he is fine with a small amount once a year being donated, but it is difficult to choose a recipient.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that service groups and not just individuals can be recipients, or it can be a donation to a school.

Mayor Moyer asked how to explain the spending of special funds to taxpayers.

Council Member Marquis stated that the City Council can give back without spending money.

Mayor Moyer stated that he would rather donate to a charity that he chooses rather than one chosen by the government and wants to be sure the money is spent within City limits.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that now is the time that the City Council can give back to the community, and it does not have to be monetarily. Council Member Marquis stated that the Builder and Developer Committee discussed helping low income and disable persons improve their homes.

Council Member Minner asked about the legal issue in Sussex County regarding spending accounts.

City Council Comments

Council Member Minner asked that Public Works check the storm water drains.

Vice Mayor Bivans asked that Public Works pick up branches from the street and repair potholes.

Mayor Moyer stated that there are street signs down on Delaware Avenue. Vice Mayor Bivans stated that the City used to have a sign replacement program. Peck Avenue and Thorpe Street have the old blue signs.

Council Member Baugher stated that there is a mess on the sidewalk on West Street from the farm work.

Council Member Marquis asked when the new code enforcement officer will start. The City Manager stated that the Public Works staff is currently helping with code enforcement.

Council Member Marquis asked if a vendor selling dresses outdoors has a business license and stated that he would like to encourage the City to make purchases at local businesses.

Council Member Parker stated that there continues to be a drainage issue on Mispillion Street.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Blanchies", written over the printed name.

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council